

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 SAA-01 IO-14 HA-05 SSM-05 EUR-12
PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 /087 W
-----018874 291848Z /46

O 291828Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2033

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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DEPT FOR S/PRS AND PA, PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND
WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL
USICA AOR PGM/PP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L.)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR ATHERTON AND FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL'S

- REMARKS TO PRESS, JULY 29, 1978

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR ATHERTON
AND FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL TO PRESS FOLLOWING 2 1/2
HOUR MEETING TODAY AT FOREIGN MINISTRY:

QUESTION: THOSE WERE VERY LONG TALKS.

ATHERTON: YES, WE'VE HAD A GOOD LONG TALK; WE HAVE MANY
THINGS TO DISCUSS. BASICALLY THE MINISTER AND I CONTINUED
THIS AFTERNOON THE DISCUSSIONS THAT WE HELD LAST
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EVENING, GOING OVER THE SAME SUBJECTS AND RELATED SUBJECTS
IN GREATER DEPTH. I'M LOOKING FORWARD VERY MUCH TO
MY TALK TOMORROW WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND I THINK UNTIL
THAT HAPPENS THERE ISN'T REALLY ANYTHING I CAN ADD TO
WHAT I SAID WHEN I ARRIVED AND WHAT I SAID LAST EVENING.

QUESTION: YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

HAS BEEN YOUR BABY. IS IT STILL ON THE TABLE?

ATHERTON: AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, THIS IS WHERE WE STARTED THIS STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND IT REMAINS AS AN ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE.

QUESTION: CAN YOU USE THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL (PROPOSAL) FOR A (DECLARATION) (INAUDIBLE)?

ATHERTON: I WOULD RATHER, HONESTLY, NOT GET INTO ANY MORE DETAILED QUESTIONS AT THIS POINT.

QUESTION: I UNDERSTAND THAT THE SINAI TALKS ARE DEFINITE. CAN YOU CONFIRM THIS?

ATHERTON: THIS IS ONE OF THE SUBJECTS THAT I'VE COME HERE TO DISCUSS WITH THE MINISTER AND WITH PRESIDENT SADAT TOMORROW AND I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER PERHAPS TO NOT GET INTO THE DETAILS OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS. BUT I CAN CERTAINLY SAY THAT AT THIS STAGE I THINK THE SITUATION REMAINS AS IT HAS BEEN, AND THAT WE HAVE TO CONTINUE DISCUSSING THIS SUBJECT IN OUR ONGOING TALKS WHILE I'M HERE.

QUESTION: (INAUDIBLE) WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE NEW ROUND?
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ATHERTON: LET'S WAIT UNTIL AFTER I'VE HAD MY FURTHER TALKS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT.

QUESTION: WHAT'S THE IDEA FOR IT? WHAT DO YOU EXPECT IT TO ...

ATHERTON: WE SAID THAT WE THINK THERE'S GREAT IMPORTANCE IN HAVING A CONTINUING PROCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS TO CONTINUE TO TRY TO ARRIVE AT AREAS OF AGREEMENT. THAT IS THE PURPOSE AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO, AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DISCUSSING, BUT I REALLY DON'T WANT TO GO INTO ANY MORE DETAILS.

QUESTION (TO KAMEL): IF YOU HAD AMERICAN PROPOSALS, WOULD THAT ENCOURAGE YOU TO GO TO SINAI?

KAMEL: THAT DEPENDS ON WHAT KIND OF PROPOSALS THEY MAKE ... (INAUDIBLE).

QUESTION: IF IT WOULD BE A MIDDLE OF THE ROAD; LIKE ... (INAUDIBLE)...

KAMEL: (INAUDIBLE)...MIDDLE OF THE ROAD COULD NOT AND

SHOULD NOT INCLUDE TERRITORY OR SOVEREIGNTY.
OTHERWISE, WE ARE OPEN.

QUESTION: WHAT WOULD BE THE AMERICAN PROPOSAL FOR
WHICH YOU WOULD GO TO SINAI?

KAMEL: WELL, I CAN'T ANTICIPATE THAT. WHEN A GOOD
AMERICAN PROPOSAL COMES, WE WILL DECIDE, UPON THE
BASIS OF WHAT THERE IS THERE.

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QUESTION: YOUR EXCELLENCY, MR. ATHERTON HAS SPOKEN TO
YOU OF HIS TALKS IN ISRAEL. DO YOU SEE ANY
RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE EGYPTIAN POSITION?

KAMEL: BETWEEN THE ISRAELIS AND US?

QUESTION: YES.

KAMEL: NO. IT IS STILL THE SAME.

QUESTION: ANY COMMON ELEMENTS?

KAMEL: WELL, THERE ARE COMMON ELEMENTS BY MERE
COINCIDENCE AND THEY ARE TOTALLY IRRELEVANT.

QUESTION: MR. KAMEL, WOULD YOU GO ON AN AMERICAN
PROPOSAL RATHER THAN AN ISRAELI PROPOSAL?

KAMEL: BYE, NOW. (LAUGHTER).
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